Opportunity for postgraduate students (Master Research or PhD) in animal physiological and evolutionary ecology at the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University

Project:

**Metabolism, behaviour and environment-dependent fitness of small mammals**

Research Leaders:

Dr Christopher Turbill and Dr Paul Rymer, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University

Project Description:

We seek outstanding research students to join our group and lead projects that make use our ongoing artificial selection project, well-equipped physiology and genetics laboratories and outdoor experimental facilities to determine the ecological function and evolutionary drivers of variation in the resting metabolic rate of small mammals.

       We are taking an innovative approach that combines artificial selection on resting metabolic rate with ecological and field-based experiments, which enables us to measure the performance and fitness of individuals with contrasting metabolic phenotypes under ecologically relevant environmental conditions. An exciting opportunity is now available to lead projects that use these selected mice populations to test predictions about i) the genetic and physiological causes underpinning these different thermal and metabolic responses to energy stress, and ii) the ecological consequences of these different phenotypes under manipulated environmental conditions using semi-outdoor and large wild foraging enclosures. These projects would allow students to conduct innovative experiments to directly address questions at forefront of research in physiological and evolutionary ecology.

To Apply:

Interested applicants should send a CV, academic transcript and a brief summary of their research interests to c.turbill@westernsydney.edu.au

Applications will be assessed as they are received. If invited, submission of an Expression of Interest for [Higher Degree Scholarships at Western Sydney University](http://www.uws.edu.au/graduate_research_school/grs/scholarships/main_round_scholarships) close on the 9th October 2016.

Students (domestic or international) with a high level of qualifications and relevant research experience will be invited to apply for a Higher Degree Scholarship from Western Sydney University. To rank highly, students will need to have completed a Masters by Research (or international equivalent), first class Honours (domestic students) and at least one publication or extensive research experience.

Benefits:

Students that secure a scholarship (with the potential of fee waiver for high-quality international students) can apply for top-up funding for additional support of living expenses, research costs, and conference attendance. Students will also enjoy the logistical, academic and social benefits of working in a very active, research-focused and internationally diverse institute within Western Sydney University. The Hawkesbury Campus (Richmond, NSW) is located at the foot of the Blue Mountains on the western outskirts of Sydney, Australia.

Contact:

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